

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH A. BURKE

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, our Nation has lost one of its most distinguished Naval heroes, Adm. Arleigh A. Burke. Had World War II continued beyond September 2, 1945, I might have served in the Pacific under "31 knot Burke," as he was nicknamed for his exploits against the Japanese. Admiral Burke was awarded 13 decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, and our Nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom. In 1991, for the first time in Navy history, the man for whom a ship—U.S.S. *Arleigh Burke*—was named was on hand to see her commissioned.

Mr. President, I ask that the obituary of Arleigh A. Burke from the New York Times of January 2, 1996, be included in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 2, 1996]

ARLEIGH A. BURKE DIES AT 94; NAVAL HERO OF WORLD WAR II

(By Robert D. McFadden)

Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, a battle-decorated Chief of Naval Operations whose combat exploits against Japanese naval forces in the South Pacific made him the Navy's most celebrated destroyer squadron commander of World War II, died yesterday at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md. He was 94 and lived in Fairfax, Va.

Admiral Burke, who retired in 1961 after 42 years in the Navy, including a record six-year tenure as the Chief of Naval Operations in the Administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, died of complications of pneumonia, said a Navy spokesman, Lieut. Comdr. Ed Austin.

In a career that took him from Annapolis to Washington via the high seas, Admiral Burke, a stocky pipe smoker with an easy smile, served in battleships and aircraft carriers, was a member of the United Nations truce negotiations team in the Korean War and in Washington became a strong advocate of a powerful nuclear fleet for the Navy, including its missile-launching *Polaris* submarines.

But he was best known as "31 Knot Burke," a nickname supplied by Admiral William F. Halsey, for his exploits as the commander of Squadron 23, a pack of eight destroyers that staged high-speed torpedo attacks that devastated enemy warships in the Solomon Islands in late 1943 and early 1944.

"Stand aside! Stand aside! I'm coming through at 31 knots," Mr. Burke, then a Captain, radioed darkened American troop transports as his squadron, named *Little Beavers* for a comic-strip character, steamed up the slot at boiler-bursting speed to attack a Japanese task force off Bougainville on the night of Nov. 1, 1943.

In a widely heralded action, the squadron covered the landing of thousands of American troops while attacking enemy vessels and aircraft. When the battle of Empress Augusta Bay ended the next day, the Japanese toll was horrendous. A cruiser and four destroyers lay on the bottom, and two cruisers and a pair of destroyers had limped away heavily damaged.

Later that month, the squadron engaged another Japanese task force off Cape St. George, New Ireland, and sank three destroyers without taking a hit. In 22 engagements from November 1943 to February 1944, the Navy said, Capt. Burke's squadron was credited

with sinking one cruiser, nine destroyers, one submarine and nine smaller ships, as well as downing approximately 30 aircraft.

Later, Mr. Burke became a chief of staff to Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, whose carrier task forces attacked the Japanese at Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Tokyo. Mr. Burke was aboard the flagship *Bunker Hill* and later the *Enterprise* when they were hit by Japanese suicide planes off Okinawa.

In 1949, during interservice disputes that followed the unification of the armed forces, Mr. Burke fell into disfavor with some officials of the Truman Administration by heading a group of high Navy officers that campaigned for supercarriers and against a strategic reliance on the Air Force's B-36 bombers.

His role in what was called the Admiral's revolt seemed to scuttle his chances for promotion. But his name went back on the lists a year later, when he became a rear admiral, and in 1951, he became a member of the allied cease-fire commission in Korea for six months.

In 1955, he was selected by Eisenhower over 92 more senior officers to be Chief of Naval Operations. In that post, he advocated a balanced and versatile fleet, new antisubmarine technology, the development of *Polaris* submarines and other nuclear systems, and new aircraft designs. He served three two-year terms, but insisted on retiring in 1961, when President John F. Kennedy offered him a fourth term.

Arleigh Albert Burke was born on a farm near Boulder, Colo., on Oct. 19, 1901. His parents were of Swedish and Pennsylvania Dutch stock, his paternal grandfather having changed the name from Bjorkegren. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1923, and after five years of sea duty, earned a degree in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan in 1931.

He was an inspector at a naval gun factory in Washington when World War II broke out. He immediately applied for sea duty, but his application was not granted until 1943, when he was sent to command destroyers in the Solomons. For his ensuing exploits, he was awarded 13 decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Cross, the Legion of Merit and the Silver Star.

In January 1977, he was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, by President Gerald R. Ford. In 1984, the Navy named a class of missile-launching destroyers for him. And in 1991, it launched the U.S.S. *Arleigh Burke*, an \$864 million destroyer, and for the first time in Navy history, the man for whom a ship was named was on hand to see her commissioned.

Mr. Burke is survived by his wife, the former Roberta (Bobbi) Gorsuch, to whom he was married for 72 years. •

LANDMINES: A DEADLY PERIL TO ALL THE WORLD'S CREATURES

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have often spoken of the danger landmines pose to civilians and combatants around the world. There are an estimated 100 million of these hidden killers in over 60 countries, each one waiting to explode from the pressure of a footstep.

The State Department estimates that 26,000 people are killed or maimed by landmines annually. That is 72 people each day, or one every 22 minutes. The overwhelming majority are innocent civilians, who if they are lucky enough to survive face a lifetime of physical and psychological trauma.

American service men and women are also the victims of these indiscriminate killers. It is no surprise that the first American casualty in Bosnia was from a landmine. There are 3 to 5 million landmines there, hidden under snow and mud. After our troops leave, millions will remain for years, taking their toll among the civilian population. Few people know that landmines caused a third of the American deaths in Vietnam, a quarter of the American deaths in the Persian Gulf war, and over a quarter of American deaths in Somalia.

Landmines are a global humanitarian catastrophe, but humans are not the only victims. Any living creature, wild or domestic, that weighs as much as a small dog, is a potential landmine victim. There have been many instances when a family lost its only means of livelihood when a cow or water buffalo stepped on a landmine, but there are undoubtedly countless other instances of wild animals that have died from mines. Virtually any animal that triggers a mine suffers terrible injuries and dies from loss of blood.

Mr. President, this may seem unimportant, but it is not. Landmines are insidious because they indiscriminately kill and maim the innocent, and that includes animals as well as people. There have even been reports that the Pentagon is considering using sheep to clear mines, by sending them into minefields to trigger the mines. Not only would this fail to detonate all the mines, but anyone who has seen the horrifying injuries landmines cause would be repulsed by the sacrifice of defenseless animals that way.

Mr. President, landmines are causing a humanitarian catastrophe. Even if not a single new mine were laid the 100 million unexploded mines in the ground would go on killing for decades. We must do all we can to locate and remove them. I have sponsored legislation to appropriate funds to improve the technology for doing that, and to help support mine clearing efforts around the world. Those funds are being used. It is not enough, not nearly enough, but it is a start.

To those who care about innocent life, whether human or non-human, landmines are a scourge that must be rid from the world. Ultimately, the only way to do that is to ban them altogether. •

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY SEASON IN NEW YORK

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the true spirit of the holiday season and pay special tribute to Trans World Airlines (TWA) for its generosity in helping to make Christmas a truly special time for one of my constituents, Mr. Mouris Astafanous.

To have a chance of survival, doctors told Mr. Astafanous that he would need a bone marrow transplant. Tests had indicated that his sister, Ms. Wedad Astafanous of Cairo, Egypt, met the incredible 20,000 to 1 odds of finding a